

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 28, 2003

CONTACT: Dawn Kappel
Director of External Communications
312-322-0524

ADLER PLANETARIUM LAUNCHES INTO SPRING WITH OUT OF THIS WORLD FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Spring into Space! March 29

11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Adler will host the Chicago-area chapters of the National Space Society as they present a fun-filled day of activities for the entire family.

Scheduled activities include the following:

- * Lectures, including "Why We Explore Mars" by NSS member Jim Plaxco
- * Demonstrations, including "How a Space Suit Works" and "Create a Comet"
- * Hands-on activities, including word puzzles, a make-and-take 3-D model of the asteroid Eros, and Gravity Bricks

Special guests also include members of the local chapter of the Mars Society. All activities are free with paid building admission.

The National Space Society (NSS) is an independent, international, educational, grassroots nonprofit organization dedicated to the creation of a spacefaring civilization.

Adler celebrates International Dark Sky Week March 29 - April 6

Activities include:

Telescope Resource Table - Visitors can stop by and learn all about viewing the sky, from how to buy a telescope to constellation identification. Adler educators and volunteers will answer questions.

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. daily

- more -

Adler Spring Break/Add 1

Solar Telescopes (weather permitting) - Educators and volunteers will help visitors to safely gaze at our star, the Sun, spy sunspots and see loops of hot gas on its surface.

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. daily

Far Out Friday, April 4

Observing Saturn & Jupiter Activities. Special talk by John Carlstrom, University of Chicago: “*Exploring the Infant Universe from Antarctica.*”

5:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Enjoy the spectacle of the starry sky as you experience Far Out Fridays at the Adler! Scope out the many family activities on the first Friday of every month from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. including telescope viewing, shows in the historic Sky Theater and the world's first StarRider™ Theater, live lectures by Adler astronomers, hands-on activities, special demonstrations, and Doane Observatory tours. Far Out Fridays are \$15.00 for adults, \$12.00 for children/senior citizens, \$5.00 Adler Members. A Family Star Pack is four for \$45.00 (2 adults/ 2 children or 1 adult/ 3 children). Far Out Fridays are generously sponsored by Food For Thought Management Group.

Each month something new can be seen in the sky and at the Adler! Learn how to use **your** new telescope. Bring your scope with you and Adler staff and volunteers will help you set it up and practice using it. Keep your eye on our website

www.adlerplanetarium.org for details on each month's event.

International Dark Sky Week is a grassroots effort to highlight the beauty of the night sky which inspires our attempts to understand the cosmos and to draw attention to the ever increasing levels of light pollution across the United States caused by poorly designed lighting. It has the endorsement of the American Astronomical Society (AAS) and the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA).

Here Comes the Sun! April 11 - April 20

Daily from 1:00 –3:00 p.m.

Human Sundials – Visitors can draw their shadow's outline on the Adler's Sundial Plaza, and see how the Sun's movement makes it change throughout the day.

Max's Adventures with the Seasons - Send Max on vacation in this computer interactive in our Cyberspace Gallery. Designed for children ages 5-10, the activity helps you learn about the reasons for the seasons.

Solar Telescopes (weather permitting) - Educators and volunteers will help visitors to safely gaze at our star, the Sun, spy sunspots and see loops of hot gas on its surface.

Adler Spring Break/Add 2

Don't miss our ongoing presentations:

Bringing the Heavens to Earth: Cultural Astronomies around the World Exhibit

Since ancient times, people have looked at the heavens with awe and wonder, but they have also used the sky as an inspiration and resource for the entire spectrum of their lives. This innovative permanent exhibit gallery delves into some of the cultures of the world that have, throughout time, contributed various answers to the timeless quest to understand our place in the Universe, and found diverse ways to incorporate astronomy into their daily lives.

Skywatchers of Africa

Sky Theater

Leading visitors on an exciting exploration of how the first human civilizations contemplated the heavens, *Skywatchers of Africa* examines how the skies were used as a tool for survival, to define communities, and to find spiritual meaning and guidance.

Open Run.

Journey to Infinity

StarRider™ Theater Show

Join us on an interactive trip through the Universe, which begins on an alien world 5 billion years ago. You'll witness the formation of our solar system from gas and dust enriched by star explosions and fly out from Earth past the Sun and the planets, through the stars and the Milky Way Galaxy into the distant realms of the Universe. Along the way you will navigate through the oceans of Europa, a moon of Jupiter, and in a canyon on the red planet Mars looking for possibilities of life. **Open run.**

GENERAL INFORMATION

HOURS

Monday-Friday	9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Sat-Sun	9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

On the first Friday of each month the Adler offers special programs with extended hours from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

REGULAR ADMISSION:

Ultimate Universe Adventure is \$18.00 for adults, \$17.00 for seniors 65 and older and \$16.00 for children 4 - 17. This package includes admission and the choice of two sky shows.

Galaxy Passport is \$13.00 for adults, \$12.00 for seniors 65 and older and \$11.00 for children 4 - 17. This package includes admission and choice of one sky show.

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Adler Spring Break /Add 3

The Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum was founded in 1930 as the first planetarium in the Western Hemisphere. Its astronomy programs have reached over 40 million people during the past 73 years. Ten state-of-the-art exhibition galleries located in the glass-enclosed Sky Pavilion and the renovated landmark 1930s building present modern space exploration along with the history of astronomy. The world's first StarRider™ Theater, the most technologically advanced, audience-interactive planetarium, fuels the imagination of visitors during virtual flights through the cosmos. With a dedicated and professional staff, the Adler pursues its mission to present the human quest to better understand the Universe. Adler scientists and historians, who hold joint appointments at the University of Chicago and Northwestern University, are working at the forefront of research in astronomy and its fascinating history. The Adler is leading the way into the new "Space Millennium."

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (312) 922-STAR
TTY: (312) 322-0995
www.adlerplanetarium.org.

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